

Lean In: Climate Change and Human Flourishing

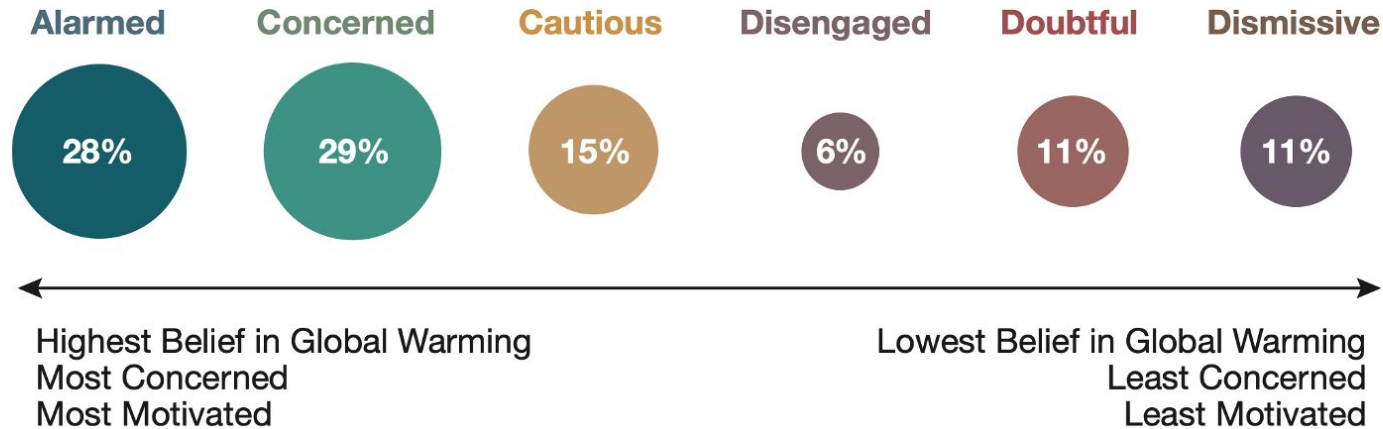
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★ TEXAS IMPACT
PEOPLE OF FAITH WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Do you think climate change is an important issue?





Global Warming's Six Americas, Fall 2023
Base: 1,033 U.S. adults

Source: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication;
George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication

Energy Resources Utilization

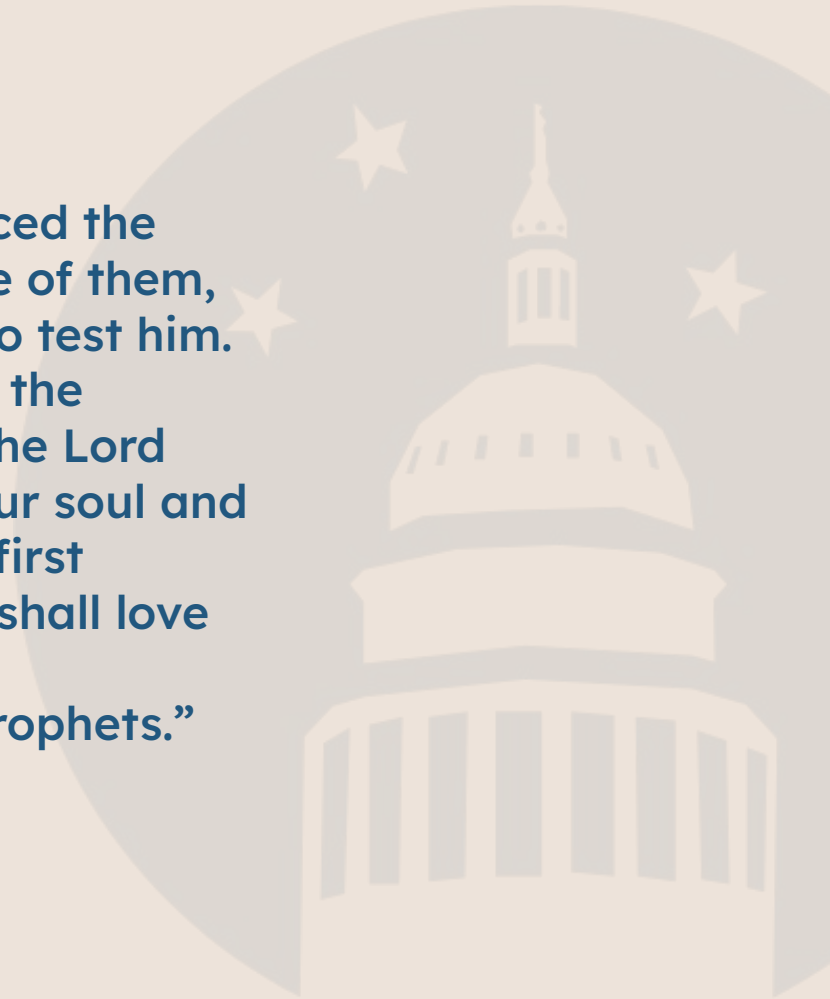
The whole earth is God's good creation and as such has inherent value. We are aware that the current utilization of energy resources threatens this creation at its very foundation. As members of The United Methodist Church we are committed to approaching creation, energy production, and especially creation's resources in a responsible, careful and economic way. We call upon all to take measures to save energy. Everybody should adapt his or her lifestyle to the average consumption of energy that respects the limits of the planet earth. We encourage persons to limit CO2 emissions toward the goal of one tonne per person annually. We strongly advocate for the priority of the development of renewable energies. The deposits of carbon, oil, and gas resources are limited and their continuous utilization accelerates global warming. The use of nuclear power is no solution for avoiding CO2 emissions. Nuclear power plants are vulnerable, unsafe, and potential health risks. A safe, permanent storage of nuclear waste cannot be guaranteed. It is therefore not responsible to future generations to operate them. The production of agricultural fuels and the use of biomass plants rank lower than the provision of safe food supplies and the continued existence for small farming businesses.

Global Climate Stewardship

We acknowledge the global impact of humanity's disregard for God's creation. Rampant industrialization and the corresponding increase in the use of fossil fuels have led to a buildup of pollutants in the earth's atmosphere. These "greenhouse gas" emissions threaten to alter dramatically the earth's climate for generations to come with severe environmental, economic, and social implications. The adverse impacts of global climate change disproportionately affect individuals and nations least responsible for the emissions. We therefore support efforts of all governments to require mandatory reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and call on individuals, congregations, businesses, industries, and communities to reduce their emissions.

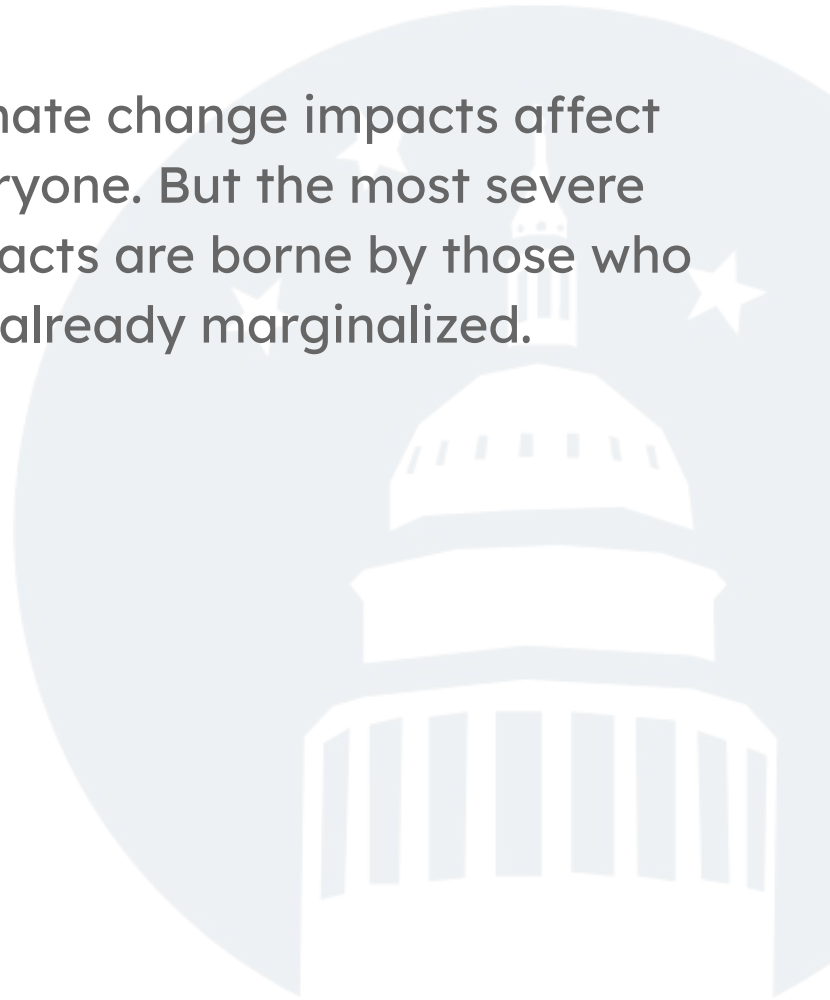


When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”
Matthew 22:34-40



Climate Change and our Neighbors

Climate change impacts affect everyone. But the most severe impacts are borne by those who are already marginalized.



Climate Change and our Neighbors

The church's mission work includes work in sectors that are influenced by climate change.

- Agriculture/food security
- Water
- Public health
- Immigration/migration
- Ministry among unhoused people

Climate Change and our Neighbors

Climate change affects the budgets of our churches, which impacts our ability to do ministry.



Climate Change Policy: International to Local



What is COP?



- Yearly gathering of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

- Purpose: to discuss progress on climate change action and to make plans for future efforts

COP Language

- Paris Agreement
 - Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
 - Adaptation
 - Mitigation
 - Ambition
 - Stocktake
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- A faint, light-colored graphic in the background of the right side of the slide. It depicts a domed building, likely a capitol or parliament building, with a central dome and a smaller dome on top. There are two five-pointed stars on either side of the main dome. The graphic is semi-transparent and serves as a decorative element.

Climate Finance: Loss and Damage



Monetary fund, funded by contributions from developed nations, to support work of adaptation and mitigation in developing nations

COP28 In Sequence

- **COP27 - Loss and Damage**
- **COP28 - Stocktake**
- **COP29 - NDCs**



Why should Texas voters be informed about international climate policy?



Why should Texas voters be informed about international climate policy?

- Texas is at risk from many climate impacts
 - Texas is an energy producing state
 - Ambitious NDCs and climate finance require the support of Congress
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Climate Mitigation Benefits Everybody



Advocacy Opportunities: State and Local

Energy

- Renewables
- Battery Storage
- Energy Efficiency
- Demand Response

Environmental Quality

- Methane

Public Transportation



Advocacy Opportunities: Federal

- Support regulation of GHGs as a pollutant
 - Climate change concerns in Farm Bill
 - Commitment to funding climate finance (Loss and Damage Fund, Green Climate Fund)
 - Support IRA
 - Oppose permits for LNG terminals
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Thank You

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